MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 5th December 1983 commencing 4 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. R. Harper	
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. B. H. Macintosh	
Mr. J. Mitchell	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. M. Sevior	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 17th October 1983, having been circulated, were adopted as a correct record subject to the recording of an apology, previously given by Mr Mitchell for inability to attend that meeting, being noted. The minutes were confirmed on the motion of

Mr. Long
seconded Mr. Macintosh

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i Minute 5.i.ii

Re-drafted Balance Sheet as at 30.9.83, showing ECDP funds in a separate account, was prepared and circulated to Board members.

3.ii Minute 5.ii.ii

An invitation was issued to the Federation of Housing Societies to affiliate with the Federation. An application for membership was subsequently received.

3.iii Minute 11

Action, as directed by the Board, will be taken in the December Report from the Board.

3.iv Minute 4.iv, Minute 9

Advice received from the Registrar that amendments to Articles of Association by Murray Goulburn Co-operative

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at 1982 Annual General Meeting have not changed the 'substantial Co-operative nature' of that Co-operative and the Registrar's certificate issued under Section 49(2) of the Co-operation Act 1981 remains valid.

Murray Goulburn so advised.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.i To Premier

Reminder requesting response to Chairman's letter dated 12th August 1983 sent on 9th November.

Advice received that the matter has been referred to the Minister Employment and Training for formal response.

4.ii To Mrs. Barry

Expressing sympathy on the sudden death of Mr. Barry, associated with North Eastern Co-operative, Wangaratta for 45 years, 30 years as General Manager.

4.iii To North Eastern Dairy Co-operative

Responding to advice that the Board of that Co-operative will be taking no further action in regards to membership of the Federation.

4.iv To Apollo Bay Fishermen's Co-operative

Inviting application for membership of the Federation.

4.v To Community Work Society Co-operative

Responding to submission of good annual report of operations without government funding.

4.vi To Trading Co-operatives

Requesting attitude to support sought by Bendigo Trading Co-operative for concession on Weights and Measures Legislation requiring standardisation of packaging of some foodstuffs including dried fruit. In the light of response received the Board resolved

That the Federation should support the application of Bendigo Trading Co-operative for exemption from the Weights and Measures Act relating to packing of non-standard lots for sale exclusively to members of that Co-operative.

Moved Mr. Macintosh
seconded Mr. Long

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4.vii From Co-operative Federation of N.S.W. Ltd.

Forwarding copy of 1983 Annual Report and Business Papers from their 19th Annual General Meeting.

4.viii From Registrar Co-operative Societies

Declining request of the Federation for Co-operative legislation in all Australian States to be gazetted as 'declared law' to enable Co-operatives from any State to apply for registration in Victoria as a Foreign Society.

The Board resolved

That the Registrar of Co-operative Societies be formally requested to seek Ministerial approval for the gazetting of the Companies (Co-operative) Act 1943-82 of Western Australia as 'declared law' to enable a Co-operative Company incorporated in that State currently desirous of incorporating in Victoria as a Foreign Society to be eligible for such action.

Moved Mr. Long
seconded Mr. Rundle

4.ix From Victorian Trading Co-operatives Association

Indicating the members of that Association agreement to change of Secretary and change of registered office.

The Board resolved

That Mr. W. W. Rawlinson be appointed Secretary of the Victorian Trading Co-operatives Association as requested by Association Members and that the registered office of the Association be transferred from 157 A'Beckett Street to 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne at a date mutually convenient to Messrs. Long and Rawlinson.

Moved Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Slattery

5. *APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP*

Applications for membership of the Federation, together with application monies for 5 x $2 shares in the Federation were received from

The Federation of Housing Societies of Victoria

Associated Herd Improvement Co-operative Ltd.

Apollo Bay Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd.

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The Board resolved

That subject to the issue of a certificate under Section 49(2) of the Co-operation Act in respect of The Federation of Housing Societies, five two dollar shares be allotted and issued to

The Federation of Housing Societies of Victoria
Associated Herd Improvement Co-operative Ltd.
Apollo Bay Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd.

and that these three organisations be admitted into membership of the Federation.

Moved Mr. Mitchell
seconded Mr. Harper

6. FINANCIAL

A statement of income and expenditure for the period 1.7.83 to 30.11.83 and an estimated balance sheet as at 30.11.83 was presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

A final statement showing disbursement of surplus funds provided by the Ministry Employment and Training for administration of the Business Advisory Unit, Employment Co-operative Development Programme including transfer of capital assets acquired from the funds transferred to the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd., together with auditor's certificate supporting payments from the fund in accordance with the conditions of the grants as submitted to the Ministry with the final refund of surplus balance to the Ministry,was presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

A copy of this final statement, together with a copy of the auditor's certificate is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

7. SERVICES

7.i Bulk Fuel Purchases

The response from Esso and Shell Oil Companies for quotations to supply fuel against bulk orders from the Federation were presented. These quotations being at a higher rate than that currently obtainable by some member Co-operatives were considered unacceptable

The Board resolved

That the matter be referred back to the investigating committee for discussion with Phosphate Co-operative Company of Australia and further negotiation with Esso and Shell Oil Companies with a view to obtaining lower price quotations.

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7.ii Central Banking

No response yet received from Co-operative Federation of N.S.W. Ltd.

Expression of interest has been given by the ANZ Bank in developing a scheme for the Federation and negotiations are currently being conducted between senior staff of that Bank and the Federation..

Mr. Sevior reported on developments occurring between the Victorian Credit Co-operative Association and State Credit Union Associations in N.S.W., A.C.T. and S.A. on the subject of development of a national pooling of funds scheme.

He also reported on alternatives to its present scheme of central banking currently under consideration by Victorian Credit Co-operative Association.

8. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

8.i Directors

A brochure posted to the home address of 300 individual Co-operative directors, to all member Co-operatives in the Federation and listed in the calendar of Training Programmes issued by the Victorian Dairy Industry Training Committees advising of the Director Training Seminar scheduled for March 14 and 15 1984 was tabled.

8.ii Trading Co-operative Executives

The proposed joint programme with Co-operative Federation of N.S.W. to be organised by that State Federation in Albury has been deferred.

8.iii Directors/Executives participation in American Institute of Co-operation Summer Institute

Reply received from Dr. David Downey advising invitation to be issued by the American Institute of Co-operatives office.

9. PROMOTION OF THE FEDERATION

Following receipt of names and addresses of all registered Co-operative Societies from the Registry, a Federation promotional leaflet is being sent to all 1400 Co-operatives. The promotional leaflet was tabled.

10. EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The promotional brochure on "Co-operative Support Services' issued by the Small Business Department, Preston College of T.A.F.E. was tabled. Phase 1, the 'Intenders Course' has been completed with about 60 persons in 3 groups taking part.

Mr. Sevior advised he had been invited to be a member of the Education Committee of the E.C.D.P. He also reported on investigations currently being conducted into the funding of Co-operatives in the Programme with local Credit Co-operative funds provided through Victorian Credit Co-operative Association.

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Mr. Harper reported on the discussions of an informal group calling itself Industrial Democracy Committee which includes Race Mathews, M.P. The group is operating with administrative assistance provided by the Fabian Society.

The meeting agreed with the desirability of the Federation developing a policy relating to the concept of Democracy in commerce and industry. Messrs. Harper and Sevior agreed to form a committee with other interested Board members to develop proposals to assist the Board in its defining of policy towards this developing business restructuring.

Mr. Rawlinson reported he had been advised that the C.F.A. has proposed to the Federal Government that a national meeting be convened to enable a clarification of policy and future development of Commonwealth/State relationships and non governmental specialist resource services in the area of employment Co-operatives to be utilised in a co-ordinated manner.

11. CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Long reported the Advisory Council met on 26th October 1984. No appointment has yet been made to fill the vacancy existing since the retirement of Mr. Jungwirth from Chairman of the Council. Consideration was given to widening the investment powers of Victorian Credit Co-operative Association.

The meeting was advised of four new senior appointments created in the Registry of Co-operative Societies

Deputy Registrar	Housing Co-operatives
Deputy Registrar	Credit Co-operatives
Deputy Registrar	all other types of Co-operatives
Manager	Co-operative Research and Policy

12. CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

The next meeting of the national Council has been proposed to be held in Sydney on the 22nd February 1984 to be preceded on 21st February 1984 by a meeting of State Federation Executive Officers.

An appointment of Executive Officer, Co-operative Federation of Queensland has been made.

13. CO-OPERATIVES IN T.A.F.E. COLLEGES

Mr. Rawlinson reported that the requirements of a tested pilot Co-operative and Teacher's Guidebook to be in place by November 1983 have not been fulfilled. Although funds from the Transition Programme used to finance this research expire at 31st December 1983 it is hoped the project will obtain continuing funds to enable it to reach its logical conclusion.

14. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. Rawlinson recorded appreciation to Mr. Macintosh for support in attendance at meetings in Macedon and Sale. The former to assist in development of a community Co-operative retail store. The latter, at the request of the Ministry Economic Development to consider formation of an East Gippsland Wholesale small mixed business Co-operative.

With Mr. Carty, Bendigo Trading Co-operative he had attended a meeting in Fitzroy where representatives of 30 food buying groups considered the formation

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of a Co-operative to operate a warehouse to co-ordinate and rationalise their efforts assisted by funding from the Employment Co-operative Development Programme.

He had discussions with Department of Agriculture officers in Horsham on the formation of a Pea Growers Co-operative.

Since the last Board meeting he had attended 3 meetings of the ECDP Funding Committee, given 4 lectures at Preston College of T.A.F.E. to the ECDP Co-operative intenders courses.

He had visited the Snowy River Co-operative at Orbost and the Abalone Fishermen's Co-operative at Mallacoota.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.i Mr. Sevior tabled a copy of an address given by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to AFCUL outlining some Victorian Government policies and attitudes towards Co-operatives.

15.ii ACMAL Takeover Offers

The Chairman expressed the concern of the Board on the adverse publicity effect on major Co-operative endeavour by public wrangling over offers and counter offers from Dairy Co-operative groups in Victoria for a takeover of what was established as their own Co-operative marketing organisation. Public indications are that personalities in entrenched positions are ignoring the 6th basic Co-operative Principle of Co-operation amongst Co-operatives at the expense of the ultimate beneficiary of Co-operative endeavour - the producer farmer members.

The Board resolved

That a letter be addressed to the Chairman of each Dairy Co-operative involved in the takeover offers and ACMAL from the Chairman of the Federation expressing the concern of the Federation on the current adverse publicity created by the division within the Dairy Co-operative sector and the prejudicial effect of such public wrangling on the whole image and future for Co-operatives in Victoria.

Moved Mr. Rundle
seconded Mr. Harper

16. NEXT MEETING

The Board set Monday, 6th February 1984 as the date of the next meeting.

17. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.10 p.m. and extended seasonal greetings to all Board members and their families.